REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10-13, 16 and 17 are amended to correct informalities, and as discussed with the Examiner during a personal interview. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Patel in the August 18, 2009 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks. Specifically, claims 1, 10-13, 16 and 17 are amended, in part, in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions to advance prosecution of this application to allowance.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,782,379 to Lee. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding independent claims 1, 10-13 and 16-17, Lee fails to disclose: (1) "the at least one instruction form and the user information being associated with each other" (claims 1, 10 and 16, and similarly recited in claim 13); (2) "the at least one instruction form including instructions indicating a plurality of processing to be executed by a plurality of instruction form execution apparatuses" (claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 16 and 17); (3) "a retrieval part that retrieves one of the at least one instruction form accessible to the user from the instruction form management apparatus based on the received information on the user" (claims 1 and 10, and similarly recited in claims 13 and 16); (4) "an attachment part that attaches a portable storage medium which is unique to and capable of being carried by a predetermined user, the storage medium holding information on a plurality of instruction form management apparatuses holding at least one instruction form associated with the user based on user access rights" (claim 11, and similarly recited in claim 12); and (5) "a retrieval part

that retrieves ... information on the instruction form management apparatus holding the retrieved instruction form based on the information on the user" (claim 16).

The Office Action cites to Lee and alleges that: (a) col. 9, lines 17-22 discloses "forms ... such as the certificate registration information" that correspond to an instruction form associated with a user based on user access rights; (b) "[t]he [claimed] instruction forms are the plurality of XML templates", citing to col. 9, lines 17-22; and (c) the creation of a workflow by a user corresponds to the claimed allowing a user to select processing from an instruction form and to instruct an instruction form execution apparatus to carry out the selected processes. These conclusions of the Office Action are incorrect for the following reasons.

Lee discloses an access management system that provides identity management services and/or access management services for a network (col. 5, lines 30-33). One aspect of the access management system is an identity system 40 that can generate a customized response to a user request that can incorporate the output of multiple programs (col. 2, lines 14-28). A user manager 42 manages user identities, profiles and access privileges (col. 7, lines 28-32). An access server 34 authenticates users to access the system (col. 9, lines 17-19). Lee discloses that templates can be used to create workflows that are sets of steps to perform a task (col. 21, lines 51-54). A workflow is created from templates/forms by a user with sufficient privileges (col. 24, lines 37-39). Templates are also accessed to perform user requests by identity server 40 (col. 45, lines 5-6).

Lee fails to disclose feature (1) quoted above because Lee's templates, while being stored, are not stored in association with any user. Instead, Lee's templates are resources available for use in creating workflows by authenticated users, and for use by the identity server 40 in performing requests by users. The Office Action cites the "certificate registration information" as one example of a form stored in association with a user. This form, however,

is different than the "XML templates" cited later by the Office Action as allegedly corresponding to the claimed instruction form. Lee's templates are <u>not</u> stored in association with a user, and thus, the Office Action's rejection is not proper. The certificate registration information may be stored in association with a user, but this teaching is not relevant to the storage of the templates in Lee. Thus, Lee does not disclose feature (1).

Lee fails to disclose feature (2) quoted above because each of Lee's XML templates corresponds to a single program (Abstract; col. 2, lines 18-21; col. 45, lines 6-8). Lee does not disclose that any templates have processing to be executed by a plurality of instruction form execution apparatuses. Thus, Lee does not disclose feature (2).

Lee fails to disclose feature (3) quoted above because Lee does not disclose that any templates are retrieved based on information on the user. Instead, for the case of creating workflows, for example, Lee discloses that a user having sufficient rights can retrieve any templates the user desires (Fig. 16, step 700; col. 25, line 65 to col. 26, line 67). Lee does not disclose that the user must enter any information on the user to do so. Thus, Lee does not disclose feature (3).

Lee fails to disclose feature (4) quoted above because: (i) the Office Action has not addressed the feature of a portable storage medium holding information on a plurality of instruction form management apparatuses holding at least one instruction form associated with the user based on user access rights, and (ii) Lee does not appear to disclose any portable storage medium storing information on apparatuses storing at least one instruction form associated with a user. Thus, Lee does not disclose feature (4).

Lee fails to disclose feature (5) quoted above because Lee does not disclose retrieving information on an apparatus storing an instruction form based on information on the user. A user in Lee can retrieve templates, or use a template to create a workflow. The system in Lee will need to determine the location of the template. Lee does not disclose that the location of

the template (*e.g.*, data registry 1670 (col. 45, lines 8-10)) is retrieved based on information on the user.

For the foregoing reasons, Lee cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combinations of all of the features recited in independent claims 1, 10-13, 16 and 17. Additionally, Lee cannot be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combinations of all of the features positively recited in dependent claims 2-9, 14 and 15 for at least the respective dependence of these claims on allowable base claims, as well as for the simply patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.
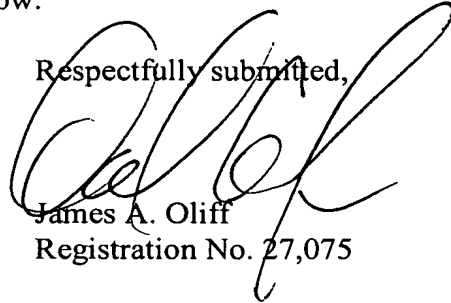
Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Lee are respectfully requested.

Applicants' representative presented the above arguments to Examiner Patel during the August 18 personal interview. Examiner Patel indicated that at least certain of Applicants' arguments were reasonable. The Examiner indicated that he would further review Lee based on Applicants submitting these arguments in a formal response. Examiner Patel indicated that, based on his review of Applicants' disclosure in preparation for the personal interview, he believed that it may be appropriate to clarify the claims by reciting, for example, tags for certain processing. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's helpful inputs and further amend the independent claims of this application in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Applicants do not believe that the substantive claim amendments are necessary to patentability of the pending claims, but amend the claims to clarify the subject matter recited in those claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Daniel A. Tanner, III
Registration No. 54,734

JAO:DAT/cfr

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 320850
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-4850
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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